

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of adapting a user interface for simplifying use of a consumer electronic device, comprising the steps of:

initially configuring a display on said user interface with a plurality of features of said consumer electronic device;

monitoring usage of each of said plurality of features by the user of said consumer electronic device; said monitoring step generating usage statistics on a user-by-user basis based on the monitored usage;

adapting said plurality of features on the basis of the usage; and

reconfiguring said display with the adapted plurality of features.

2. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 1, wherein said adapting step adds features to said plurality of features when the generated statistics indicate the user has achieved a predetermined level of proficiency.

3. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 1, wherein said adapting step removes features from said plurality of features when the generated statistics indicate the user infrequently accesses the features to be removed.

4. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting the user to accept or reject changes to said plurality of features prior to reconfiguring said display.

5. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 1, wherein the user manually adapts said plurality of features for display.

6. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 2, further comprising the step of prompting the user to enable said adapting step, thereby placing said user interface into a learning mode.

7. The method of adapting a user interface according to claim 3, further comprising the step of prompting the user to enable said adapting step, thereby placing said user interface into a simplifying mode.

8. An adaptable user interface for simplifying use of a consumer electronic device, comprising:

a display for displaying a plurality of features of said consumer electronic device;

input means for inputting commands corresponding to the displayed plurality of features;

monitoring means for monitoring usage of each of said plurality of features by the user of said consumer electronic device;

generating means for generating usage statistics based on the monitored usage;

adapting means for adapting said plurality of features on the basis of the usage; and

reconfiguring means for reconfiguring said display with the adapted plurality of features.

9. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said adapting means adds features to said plurality of features when the generated statistics indicate the user has achieved a predetermined level of proficiency.

10. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said adapting means removes features from said plurality of features when the generated statistics indicate the user infrequently accesses the features to be removed.

11. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said display prompts the user to accept or reject changes to said plurality of features prior to said reconfiguring means reconfiguring said display.

12. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said input means includes a configuring command whereby the user manually adapts said plurality of features for display.

13. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said consumer electronic device is a set-top box.

14. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said input means is integrated into said consumer electronic device.

15. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said input means is a remote control for use with said consumer electronic device.

16. The adaptable user interface according to claim 8, wherein said input means is integrated with said display.

17. The adaptable user interface according to claim 9, wherein said display prompts the user to enable said adapting means, thereby placing said user interface into a learning mode.

18. The adaptable user interface according to claim 10, wherein said display prompts the user to enable said adapting means, thereby placing said user interface into a simplifying mode.